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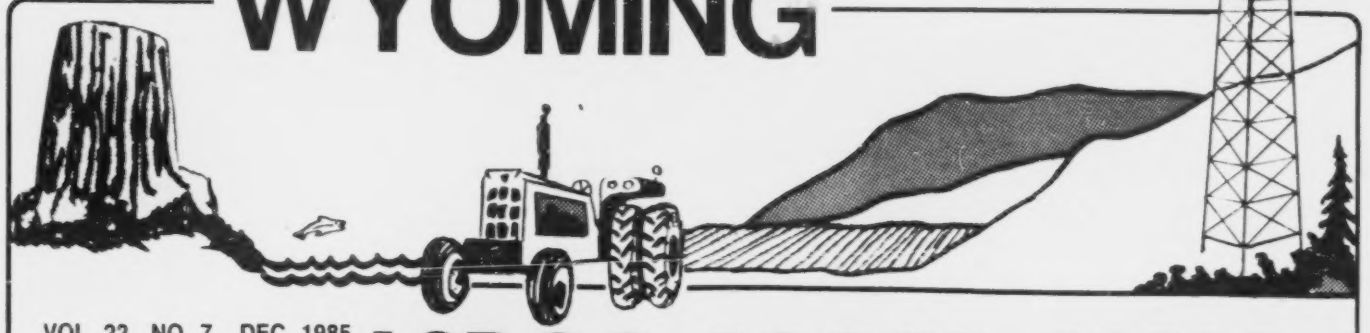
WYOMING



VOL. 22 NO. 7 DEC. 1985

LABOR FORCE TRENDS

TREND SETTERS

WYOMING	Sept. '85	Oct. '85
Labor Force	252,142	246,675
Employment	238,053	231,604
Unemployment	14,089	15,071
Rate (Raw)	5.6	6.1
Rate (S.A.)	6.7	6.9
Mining Hourly Wage	$13.57	$13.37
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	43.5	43.2
USA		
Rate (S.A.)	7.1	7.1
Mining Hourly Wage	$12.00	$11.98
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	43.8	43.1
Consumer Price Index		
All Urban 1967 = 100		
U.S. City Avg.	324.5	325.5
Denver (Bimonthly)	358.0	
Year Change (U.S.)	+3.2	+3.2

S.A.-Seasonally Adjusted

THE NATION

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continued at 7.1 percent in October for the U.S.A. — down a bit from the 7.3 percent recorded in October 1984.

IN WYOMING

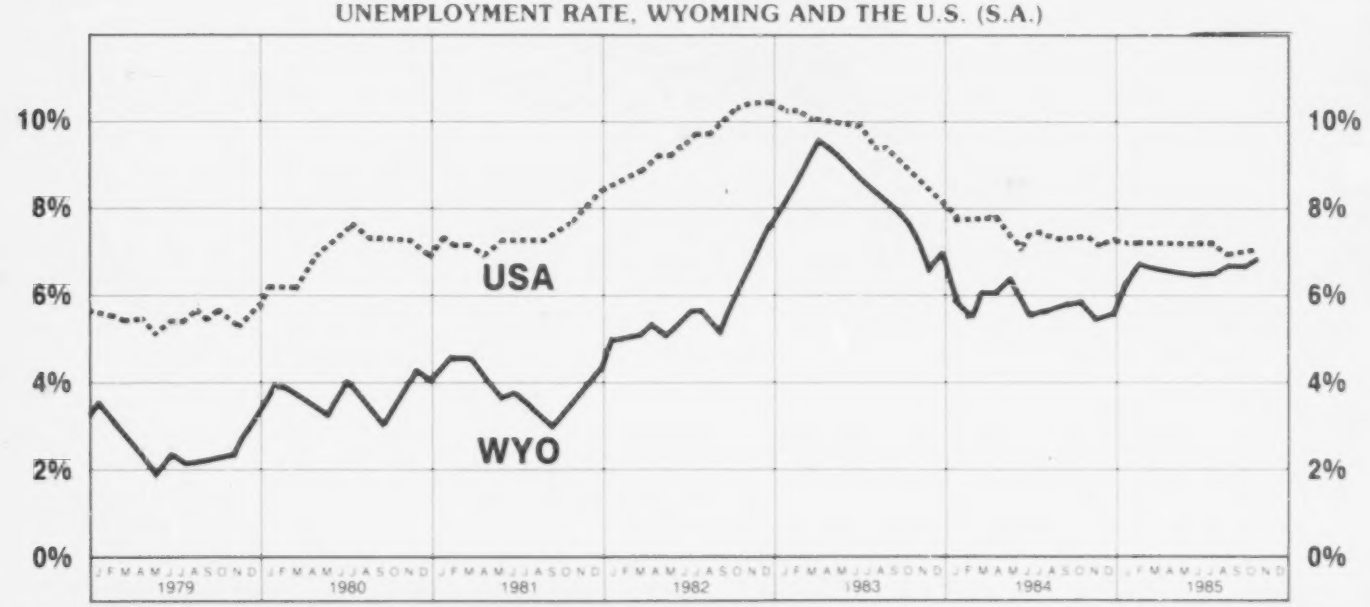
Wyoming's unemployment rate for October, at 6.1 percent, was up seasonally from the September rate of 5.6 percent — the lowest rate recorded thus far in 1985. Historical trends indicate that unemployment will continue its seasonal upturn through January or February of next year.

The October rate compares to 5.0 percent a year ago. The highest October unemployment on record for the state was 6.6 percent in 1983 and the lowest was 2.5 percent in 1979.

The Wyoming seasonally adjusted October rate of 6.9 percent continued just slightly under the U.S. rate of 7.1 percent.

October's Wyoming labor force, at 246,700, indicated a seasonal monthly downturn of over two percent and continued to lose workers on an annual basis at a rate of almost four percent. During the first three quarters of 1985, the statewide labor force declined an average of one percent from 1984.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, WYOMING AND THE U.S. (S.A.)



WYOMING EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION, Research & Analysis Section

COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS

Fremont County continues to have the greatest annual labor force loss in the state while Lincoln County continued with the highest labor force gain. Albany County, with a labor force heavily weighted with government employees, had the lowest unemployment, at 3.9 percent. Hot Springs County had the fewest jobseekers, 113 unemployed, followed by Niobrara County with 149 unemployed. The highest unemployment rate was in Niobrara County, the state's least populated, at 9.0 percent, followed by Fremont County at 8.2 percent.

Only two counties showed substantial annual labor force growth in October — Lincoln and Sublette counties were up 17 and 20 percent in construction-related employment gains. Sweetwater County also indicated over-the-year employment growth.

OTHER STATES

September unemployment rates, unadjusted for seasonality, are the most current data available for other states. Montana (6.3) and Idaho (5.8) had higher unemployment when compared to Wyoming's September rate of 5.6 percent. The remaining contiguous states of Utah, Colorado, Nebraska and South Dakota had lower rates of 5.2, 5.0, 4.6 and 4.0 percent respectively. West Virginia, at 12.6 percent continued with the highest unemployment in the United States and New Hampshire had the lowest at 2.8 percent.

WYOMING SECOND QUARTER 1985 WAGES UP 3.5 PERCENT

Recently compiled employer contribution data reflects an annual gain of 3.5 percent in the average weekly wage for the second quarter of 1985. The all industry average of $358 a week, about $18,600 a year, included over 16,600 firms employing almost 192,400 workers covered by the Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Law. The national inflation rate, consumer price index, was up 3.7 percent annually during the same time frame.

In 1984, the Wyoming average weekly wage, at $349, ranked 14th among the states and compared to the U.S. average of $353.

WYOMING EARNINGS

Recently released figures from the United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis show many of Wyoming's "bread and butter" industries on a decline. Earnings due to Wyoming's mining industry fell from 20.2 percent of the state's personal income in the first quarter of 1982 to 15.1 percent as of the second quarter of 1985. See Graph 1.

Construction has also seen better days. During 1979 construction accounted for over 10 percent of the state's personal income. It fell to 5.4 percent in 1983 and was pegged at 6.9 percent for the second quarter of 1985. Increased construction in the s[illegible] corner of the state was responsible for this upturn.

On the oth[illegible]ide of the coin, government and services reached all time highs for the second quarter of 1985, accounting for 23.7 percent and 13.6 percent of the state's personal income, respectively.

ILLITERATE AMERICA

According to the book **Illiterate America** by Jonathan Kozol, more than 25 million Americans cannot read the warnings on a can of pesticide, the front page of a newspaper, or the application forms for many good paying jobs. It is estimated that another 35 million read below the level to function successfully in our society.

The U.S. now ranks 49th in literacy among 158 of the nations included in the United Nations. This book estimates that $100 billion are lost annually in earnings, due to illiteracy.

HOT OFF THE PRESS

The Research and Analysis Section of the Employment Security Commission has recently published two sources of labor market information. The **1986 Annual Planning Report** is a comprehensive report which combines most of the programs in Research and Analysis along with other sources, to analyze labor market development and related problems in the state of Wyoming and its counties.

The **1984 Occupational Employment Statistics, Selected Nonmanufacturing** publication contains the results of a survey conducted in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This report estimates the occupational employment of selected nonmanufacturing industries in Wyoming.

Both publications are available from the Research and Analysis Section and are free.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - (1967 = 100)

ALL URBAN

	ALL ITEMS	FOOD	HOUSING	RENT	APPAREL	TRANSP.	MEDICAL
October 1985	325.5	309.8	354.4	269.9	211.1	320.9	410.5
Annual % Change	3.2	1.8	3.9	6.3	2.6	1.7	6.5

WAGE EARNERS AND CLERICAL WORKERS

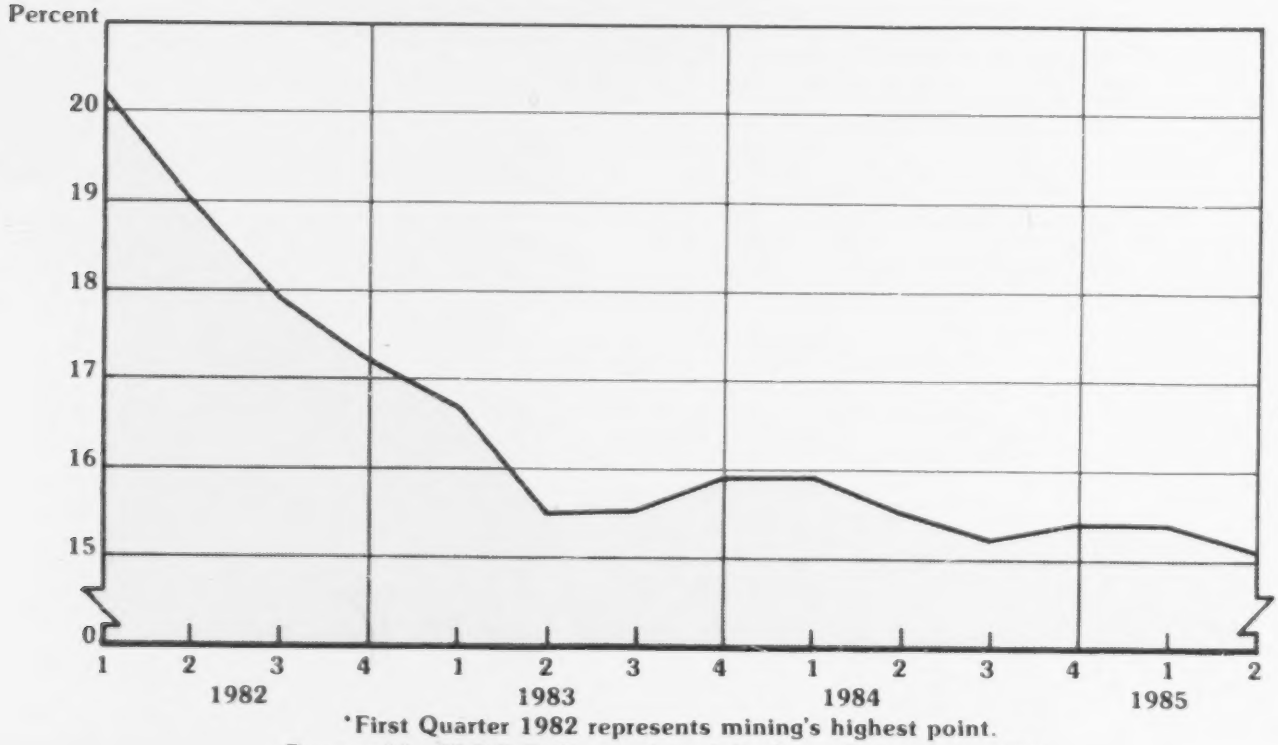
	ALL ITEMS	FOOD	HOUSING	RENT	APPAREL	TRANSP.	MEDICAL
October 1985	321.3	309.3	347.5	268.9	210.2	322.2	408.5
Annual % Change	2.9	1.7	3.6	6.2	2.6	1.4	6.5

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS PUBLICATIONS

- **1986 Wyoming Annual Planning Report;** a comprehensive analysis of labor market developments for the state and its counties.
- **State and County Summary of Covered Employment Annual Report;** gives average employment and average weekly wages by industry for the state and its counties for 1981, 1982, and 1983.
- **Third Quarter 1985 Report of Applicants and Job Openings;** comes from information supplied by Wyoming's 16 Job Service Centers entailing an analysis of job openings and applicants and characteristics of both.
- **Occupational Employment Statistics, Manufacturing and Hospitals in Wyoming: 1983;** based on a sample of these industries, this report identifies the staffing patterns and occupations comprising these industries.
- **The Statistical Review of Wyoming;** not published since the mid-1970's, this 150-page report compiles all the significant data generated by the Wyoming Employment Security Commission from 1939 to 1984.
- **Wyoming Occupational Outlook;** this report projects industry and occupational growth in Wyoming up to 1990. It also provides information concerning the number of expected job openings in many occupations.

GRAPH 1

Wyoming Mining Earnings as a Percent of Total Earnings
First Quarter 1982 – Second Quarter 1985



*First Quarter 1982 represents mining's highest point.
Prepared by W.E.S.C. Research and Analysis, December, 1985.

Table 1

WYOMING ECONOMIC INDICATORS

ITEM	OCT 1985 [1]	SEP 1985 [1]	OCT 1984 [2]	Percent change From A Month Ago	Percent change From A Year Ago
WYOMING EMPLOYMENT DATA					
Total Civilian Labor Force	246,675	252,142	256,178	- 2.2	- 3.7
Unemployment	15,071	14,089	12,698	7.0	18.7
Employed Labor Force	231,604	238,053	243,480	- 2.7	- 4.9
a. Covered Employment (Under Wyo. UI Law)[3]	191,500	195,600	195,440	- 2.1	- 2.0
b. Agriculture[3]	12,936	16,170	13,175	- 20.0	- 1.8
Total Unemployment Rate (Wyo.) Seas. Adj.*	6.1% 6.9%*	5.6% 6.7%*	5.0% 5.6%*	XXX	XXX
Total Unemployment Rate (U.S.) Seas. Adj.*	6.8% 7.1%*	6.9% 7.1%*	7.0% 7.3%*	XXX	XXX
Insured Unemployment Rate (Wyo.)[4]	1.7%	1.5%	1.4%	XXX	XXX
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 577.58	$ 590.30	$ 555.54	- 2.2	4.0
Average Weekly Hours	43.2	43.5	42.8	- 0.7	0.9
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 13.37	$ 13.57	$ 12.98	- 1.5	3.0
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Filed in Local Offices	17,633	14,221	14,085	24.0	25.2
a. Initial	3,486	2,160	2,468	61.4	41.2
Weeks Compensated	13,284	10,383	10,113	28.0	31.4
Total Amount Benefits Paid	$ 2,031,651	$ 1,585,087	$ 1,322,076	28.2	53.7
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$ 152.29	$ 151.43	$ 129.78	0.6	17.3
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE					
New Applications Received During Month	3,595	3,842	3,184	- 6.4	12.9
Non-Ag. Openings Received	3,438	3,927	3,214	- 12.5	7.0
Non-Ag. Placements	3,137	3,307	3,136	- 5.1	0.0
UNITED STATES DATA					
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 516.34	$ 525.60	$ 500.26	- 1.8	3.2
Average Weekly Hours	43.1	43.8	43.2	- 1.6	- 0.2
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 11.98	$ 12.00	$ 11.58	- 0.2	3.5
PRICE INDEXES					
Consumer Price Index 1967 = 100	325.5	324.5	315.3	0.3	3.2
Producer Prices, All Commodities	308.0	305.8	309.4	0.7	- 0.5
Retail Prices of Food 1967 = 100	309.8	309.9	304.4	0.0	1.8

[1] Preliminary. [2] Final. [3] Not Benchmarked to the Current Population Survey. [4] Rate does not include claimants receiving benefits under extended benefit provisions.

Table 2

WYOMING
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE & UNEMPLOYMENT

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE					UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	OCT 1985	SEP 1985	OCT 1984	%CHANGE SEP-OCT	%CHANGE OCT-OCT	OCT 1985	SEP 1985	OCT 1984	OCT 1985	SEP 1985	OCT 1984
Statewide	246,675	252,142	256,178	- 2.2	- 3.7	15,071	14,089	12,698	6.1	5.6	5.0
Albany	14,728	14,602	15,612	0.9	- 5.7	575	475	411	3.9	3.3	2.6
Big Horn	4,939	4,966	5,217	- 0.5	- 5.3	351	340	247	7.1	6.8	4.7
Campbell	18,579	19,001	19,008	- 2.2	- 2.3	1,125	1,146	930	6.1	6.0	4.9
Carbon	9,222	9,502	9,761	- 2.9	- 5.5	702	594	512	7.6	6.2	5.2
Converse	7,028	7,316	7,274	- 3.9	- 3.4	496	494	349	7.1	6.7	4.8
Crook	2,807	2,917	2,908	- 3.8	- 3.5	197	202	121	7.0	6.9	4.2
Fremont	16,211	16,312	18,024	- 0.6	- 10.1	1,336	1,349	1,259	8.2	8.3	7.0
Goshen	7,090	6,787	7,409	4.5	- 4.3	285	294	272	4.0	4.3	3.7
Hot Springs	2,770	2,807	3,021	- 1.3	- 8.3	113	121	108	4.1	4.3	3.6
Johnson	3,784	3,798	3,982	- 0.4	- 5.0	188	165	137	5.0	4.3	3.4
Laramie	33,995	34,719	34,481	- 2.1	- 1.4	1,686	1,571	1,587	5.0	4.5	4.6
Lincoln	7,251	7,820	6,192	- 7.3	17.1	459	452	352	6.3	5.8	5.7
Natrona	37,351	37,765	38,850	- 1.1	- 3.9	2,390	2,269	1,961	6.4	6.0	5.0
Niobrara	1,647	1,699	1,768	- 3.1	- 6.8	149	116	119	9.0	6.8	6.7
Park	12,990	14,582	14,036	- 10.9	- 7.5	723	695	543	5.6	4.8	3.9
Platte	4,090	4,298	4,564	- 4.8	- 10.4	295	285	240	7.2	6.6	5.3
Sheridan	10,990	11,296	12,123	- 2.7	- 9.3	771	727	914	7.0	6.4	7.5
Sublette	3,080	3,080	2,569	0.0	19.9	174	177	56	5.7	5.8	2.2
Sweetwater	20,664	20,501	20,321	0.8	1.7	1,358	1,217	1,143	6.6	5.9	5.6
Teton	6,833	8,486	7,125	- 19.5	- 4.1	410	318	397	6.0	3.7	5.6
Uinta	11,692	11,103	12,325	5.3	- 5.1	743	602	648	6.4	5.4	5.3
Washakie	5,342	5,196	5,763	2.8	- 7.3	280	267	237	5.2	5.1	4.1
Weston	3,590	3,589	3,846	0.0	- 6.7	266	213	151	7.4	5.9	3.9

The ESC wishes to stress that the data contained in this table are only estimates. The data for the current month is a preliminary estimate and will be revised next month, and revised yet again in about one year. On an annual average basis, the accuracy of these estimates may vary from the actual figures by as much as eight percent, plus or minus.

Table 3

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change on Total Emp.	
	OCT 1985[2]	SEP 1985[3]	OCT 1984	SEP 1985	OCT 1984
	Total	Total	Total	to OCT 1985	to OCT 1985
WYOMING NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT					
Total Non-Farm Wage & Salary Employment	203.1	205.5	199.3	- 1.2	1.9
Manufacturing	8.7	8.6	9.2	1.2	- 5.4
Durable Goods	4.0	4.1	4.5	- 2.4	- 11.1
Nondurable Goods	4.7	4.4	4.7	6.8	0.0
Petroleum & Coal Products	1.2	1.2	1.1	0.0	9.1
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	194.4	196.9	190.1	- 1.3	2.3
Mining	26.6	26.7	26.8	- 0.4	- 0.7
Contract Construction	10.6	11.5	14.1	- 7.8	- 24.8
Transportation & Public Utilities	16.6	16.8	15.7	- 1.2	5.7
Railroad Transportation	4.5	4.7	3.3	- 4.3	36.4
Transportation except Railroads	5.7	5.7	5.7	0.0	0.0
Comm., Elect., Gas & Sani. Serv.	6.3	6.4	6.7	- 1.6	- 6.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	43.4	43.4	44.5	0.0	- 2.5
Wholesale Trade	9.1	9.0	8.9	1.1	2.2
Retail Trade	34.3	34.3	35.6	0.0	- 3.7
Food Stores	5.0	5.0	5.1	0.0	- 2.0
Automotive Dealers & Serv. Stat.	6.0	6.1	6.3	- 1.6	- 4.8
Eating & Drinking Places	11.3	11.3	12.0	0.0	- 5.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	7.9	8.0	8.0	- 1.3	0.0
Services	35.5	38.0	31.0	- 6.6	14.5
Personal Services	1.8	1.8	1.9	0.0	- 5.3
Medical & Other Health Services	6.2	6.4	6.3	- 3.1	- 1.6
Government	53.8	52.5	50.0	2.5	7.6
Federal Government	7.6	8.5	6.6	- 10.6	15.2
State & Local Government	46.2	44.0	43.4	5.0	6.5
State Government	13.4	12.7	13.1	5.5	2.3
Local Government	32.8	31.4	30.3	4.5	8.3

(See Footnotes at End of Table)

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

Table 3 (Cont'd)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change on Total Emp.	
	OCT 1985[2]	SEP 1985[3]	OCT 1984	SEP 1985	OCT 1984
	Total	Total	Total	to OCT 1985	to OCT 1985
CASPER (Natrona County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	33.8	34.1	34.5	- 0.9	- 2.0
Manufacturing	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.0
Nondurable Goods	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.0	- 12.5
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	32.4	32.8	33.1	- 1.2	- 2.1
Mining	4.3	4.7	5.6	- 8.5	- 23.2
Oil & Gas Extraction	3.9	4.2	5.1	- 7.1	- 23.5
Other Mining, Quarrying, etc.	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.0	- 20.0
Contract Construction	3.0	2.9	2.4	3.4	25.0
Transportation & Public Utilities	2.1	2.1	2.1	0.0	0.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	9.3	9.2	9.4	1.1	- 1.1
Wholesale Trade	3.5	3.5	3.4	0.0	2.9
Retail Trade	5.8	5.7	6.0	1.8	- 3.3
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.5	1.6	1.7	- 6.3	- 11.8
Services	5.7	5.9	5.9	- 3.4	0.0
Government	6.5	6.4	6.0	1.6	8.3
Federal Government	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.0	- 28.6
State & Local Government	6.0	5.8	5.3	3.4	13.2
CHEYENNE (Laramie County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	30.7	31.2	30.2	- 1.6	1.7
Manufacturing	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	29.3	29.7	28.9	- 1.3	1.4
Contract Construction	1.3	1.4	1.5	- 7.1	- 13.3
Transportation & Public Utilities	3.9	4.3	3.6	- 9.3	8.3
Wholesale & Retail Trade	7.0	7.1	7.5	- 1.4	- 6.7
Wholesale Trade	0.8	0.9	0.9	- 11.1	0.0
Retail Trade	6.2	6.2	6.6	0.0	- 6.1
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.9	1.9	1.9	0.0	0.0
Services & Miscellaneous	5.3	5.2	5.1	1.9	3.9
Government	10.2	10.0	9.5	2.0	7.4
Federal Government	2.6	2.7	2.3	- 3.7	13.0
State & Local Government	7.5	7.4	7.2	1.4	4.2

[1] Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers in non-ag. establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. [2] Subject to revision. [3] Revised figures.

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WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

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